AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This claim listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1-8. (canceled)

9. (withdrawn – currently amended) A process of producing a ~~huE3α~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase polypeptide comprising:

a.) inserting an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 into a vector;

b.) inserting said vector into a host cell;

c.) culturing said host cell under suitable conditions to express the polypeptide; and

d.) optionally isolating the polypeptide from the cultured host cell.

10-11. (canceled)

12. (withdrawn – currently amended) A process for determining whether a compound inhibits ~~huE3α~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase polypeptide activity or production comprising exposing a host cell according to claim 9 to the compound, and measuring ~~huE3α~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase polypeptide activity or production in said host cell.

13. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

14. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) the mature amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising a mature amino terminus at residue 1, optionally further comprising an amino-terminal methionine;~~

~~(b) an amino acid sequence for an ortholog of SEQ ID NO: 2;~~

~~(c) an amino acid sequence~~ that is at least [~~about 70, 80, 85, 90~~] 95 [~~, 96, 97, 98, or 99~~] percent identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polypeptide has ~~an~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2[~~;~~]

~~(d) a fragment of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising at least about 25 amino acid residues, wherein the polypeptide has an activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;~~

~~(e) an amino acid sequence for an allelic variant or splice variant of either the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, or at least one of (a) (c)~~.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with ~~at least one~~ 1 to 100 conservative amino acid ~~substitution~~ substitution(s), wherein the polypeptide has ~~an~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with ~~at least one~~ 1 to 100 conservative amino acid ~~insertion~~ insertion(s), wherein the polypeptide has ~~an~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(c) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 with ~~at least one~~ 1 to 100 conservative amino acid ~~deletion~~ deletion(s), wherein the polypeptide has ~~an~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(d) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 which has a C- and/or N-terminal truncation up to about 100 amino acids, wherein the polypeptide has ~~an~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(e) the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2, with ~~at least one~~ a modification of 1 to 100 amino acids consisting of amino acid substitutions, amino acid insertions, amino acid deletions, C-terminal truncation, and N-terminal truncation, wherein the polypeptide has ~~an~~ human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

17. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(c) a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of (a) or (b), wherein said stringent conditions comprise a final wash with 0.015 M sodium chloride and 0.0015 M sodium citrate at 65-68°C in 0.1x SSC and 0.1% SDS or 0.015 M sodium chloride, 0.0015M sodium citrate, and 50% formamide at 42°C, wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide which has human E3α ubiquitin ligase activity of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO:2; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence fully complementary to any of (a)-(c).

18. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 14 wherein the percent identity is determined using a computer program selected from the group consisting of GAP, BLASTP, BLASTN, FASTA, BLASTA, BLASTX, BestFit, and the Smith-Waterman algorithm.

19-39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A composition comprising the polypeptide of ~~claims~~ claim 13, 14, ~~or~~ 16, or 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

41. (original) The composition of claim 40 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent is a carrier, adjuvant, solubilizer, stabilizer, or anti-oxidant.

42. (previously presented) The composition of claim 40 wherein the polypeptide comprises the mature amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

43. (currently amended) A ~~polypeptide comprising a~~ chemically modified derivative of the polypeptide of ~~claims~~ claim 13, 14, ~~or~~ 16, or 17.

44. (currently amended) The polypeptide derivative of claim 43 which is covalently modified with a water-soluble polymer.

45. (original) The polypeptide of claim 44 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, monomethoxy-polyethylene glycol, dextran, cellulose, poly-(N-vinyl pyrrolidone) polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol homopolymers, polypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide co-polymers, polyoxyethylated polyols, and polyvinyl alcohol.

46-48. (canceled)

49. (currently amended) A fusion polypeptide comprising the polypeptide of ~~claims~~ claim 13, 14, ~~or~~ 16, or 17 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

50. (original) The fusion polypeptide of claim 49 wherein the heterologous amino acid sequence is an IgG constant domain or fragment thereof.

51-57. (canceled)

58. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method of identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide comprising:

(a) contacting the polypeptide of ~~claims~~ claim 13, 14, ~~or~~ 16, or 17 with a compound; and

(b) determining the extent of binding of the polypeptide to the compound.

59-66. (canceled)